

pital has at present about one hundred patients, and a training-school has been established numbering twenty-five young Cuban women. Their intelligence and aptitude for the work so far give cause for gratification and encouragement on the part of their teachers. There have been a number of operations, and the doctors seem very much pleased with the nurses' work.

Mrs. Quintard will leave Puerto Principe shortly to assist in organizing similar work in the large Civil Hospital in Santiago de Cuba. Miss M. A. Mitchell will remain in charge at Puerto Principe, assisted by Miss M. A. Robertson, of New Haven Training-School; Miss C. L. Borden, St. Luke's, New York; Miss A. Alberti, St. Luke's, New York; Miss Alice P. Lyon, Brooklyn Homœopathic Training-School; Miss M. I. Smith, Philadelphia Hospital.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S LEAGUE AND THE CONGRESS OF NURSES

The League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses at their November meeting considered the question of sending a delegate to the Congress of Nurses to be held in Buffalo next September. We are pleased to learn that they intend being represented there and hope other organizations of nurses in foreign countries will follow their example.

LETTERS

FROM OUR SPECIAL ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT

A NEW CLUB.

ANOTHER item of interest in the nursing world over here is the formation of a professional and social club by the nurses of Dublin. The following objects will give you some idea of its scope:

OBJECTS.

1. To provide a meeting-place for the mutual improvement of nurses where professional matters can be discussed.
2. To bring into touch with each other the members of the different branches of the profession,—medical, surgical, fever, obstetric, mental, and massage nurses,—whether engaged in hospital, in private, or in district work.
3. To provide reading-rooms supplied with daily papers, nursing and medical papers, and some periodicals.
4. To provide a department for registering the names and addresses of members engaged in private work who require employment.

Miss Huxley, lady superintendent of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, so well known for her sturdy support of legal status for nurses, has been elected the first president, and the committee includes the names of some of the brightest and most energetic matrons in the capital of the Emerald Isle.

THE NIGHTINGALE TRAINING-SCHOOL.

An event which has given great satisfaction in the nursing world here is that the committee of the Nightingale Training-School connected with St. Thomas's Hospital propose to grant a certificate to their nurses in the future. Up to the present time no certificate has been given by the school, but the names of the probationers who have passed through the prescribed curriculum to the

satisfaction of the authorities have, at the end of one year, been placed on a Register of Trained Nurses kept by the hospital.

The regulations in force up to the present time have been as follows:

"The term of the probationary training is a complete year, and candidates will be received on the distinct understanding that they will remain for that length of time.

"The names of the probationers will be entered in a register in which a record will be kept of their qualifications. At the end of a year those whom the committee find to have passed satisfactorily through the course of instruction and training will be entered in the Register of Nightingale Nurses.

"Probationers on completion of their probationary year's training must be prepared to take service on the nursing staff of some public hospital or infirmary, or in district nursing, and to continue in similar service wherever offered to them by the committee for a period of two years at least."

This standard of training is obviously now obsolete, although when it was first laid down, in the year 1860, no doubt it was in advance of any then in force.

The Nightingale Training-School has suffered to some extent from the very fact of its being the pioneer school in this country, inasmuch as its standards have not kept pace with the great advances made in nursing education in the last thirty years in younger and more vigorous training-schools. Those of us who have desired to give our mother of training-schools the place in our respect which as the pioneer it should command have always regretted the way in which it has tenaciously clung to its original standard, and welcome the fact that at last this is to be raised. The custom of giving annual gratuities for satisfactory service is also to be discontinued. It is one which must surely be a legacy from the times when probationers were almost exclusively drawn from the totally uneducated class.

UNION JACK.

SOUTH AFRICA

I HAVE been here now over two months, having left England on August 4. You may guess how delighted I was to have the chance of active service, though as a matter of fact we got here rather late for the active part of it. Twenty of us came out together, and only one has had the good fortune to be sent up country. The rest of us are all in base hospitals. There are a number of these within a few miles of Cape Town, the chief of them being Wynberg, Woodstock, Simon's Town, and Greenpoint. The latter seems on the whole to have the best hospital for work, though as it happens none of them are very busy just now. The enteric and dysentery season has only just begun, and no doubt in another month there will be plenty to do. At this camp we have two large compounds for the Boer prisoners, of whom there are about four or five thousand. There is a hospital for light cases on the compound, but we also have a ward here for serious cases.

I have had charge of this ward for a month on day and now have it by night, as we change from day to night duty every month. I have been very glad to have this chance of making acquaintance with "our friend the enemy." They make good patients and many of them are very nice fellows. One cannot help feeling so sorry for some of them, for they have lost *everything* in this war. There was

one man here a short time ago who had his father and four brothers killed in one engagement, and his farm has since been burnt and his mother and sisters sent away, and this is only one of many such cases.

When this war is over it must surely be a great problem what to do with the many thousand prisoners on our hands. Every week we have fresh troops of them sent here, and then as the new ones arrive they send on the old ones to Ceylon or St. Helena. It is a strange sight to see them arriving from up country, and we see plenty of them, for they all come past our quarters, which are close by the roadside. Two hundred of them passed by last Thursday, surrounded by a large escort; such a motley group of old and young,—boys even who did not look more than sixteen, and old men with long white beards,—and they all looked so tired and worn out, dirty and ragged; some could hardly walk and were being helped along by the escort, and all carried big bundles of clothes, cooking utensils, and such like articles. One cannot help thinking they must be glad to be shut up in the compound, where they will have no more fighting and marching and be able to rest. Once there they are very well looked after, have sports of all kinds to amuse them, whilst new clothes and even luxuries are given to them by the Dutch Committee of Cape Town, who subscribe hundreds of pounds for the prisoners, the Government sanctioning their so doing. This country is full of pro-Boers, and one can never feel sure whether one's acquaintance is friend or foe.

Our hospital work here is rather a contrast to that of a civil hospital,—in fact, military work is altogether original. Tommy is fortunately a model patient and never complains. Of course, now things are much better than they were at the beginning of the war, but then there was some excuse if medical appliances, etc., ran short; now there cannot be any, and yet we have to go without many things which would be considered necessary in any civilian hospital.

The system of orderlies always seems such a faulty one. Some orderlies are good enough for day work, if they can be well looked after, but at night they are most unreliable, for they cannot or will not keep awake, and if you have bad cases in the ward and are not able yourself to be there all the time, you are never sure what may happen. We civilian nurses of course do a good deal of work ourselves, though the regular army Sisters seem to consider it much beneath their dignity and rather despise us for the energy we show.

This war will have done some good if it only exposes the deficiencies of the army medical service. I saw Miss — a few days ago. She, like myself, thinks very badly of our nursing system out here, but then things are much worse at — than here. We are all so much wanting to go up country, though at present there seems little chance, as they are so well supplied now with nurses everywhere. It would be so annoying to return without having seen any of the scenes of the war. Anyway, I shall hope to go to Kimberley, as I have a brother living there, and even this would give one some idea of the country, which is vastly different from this part of the Colony.

The scenery about here is beautiful. We are close to the sea, the whole of the peninsula, composed of Table Mountain and its offshoots, forming a beautiful variety of mountain and valley scenery. They are covered now with the silver-leaf tree and numberless other flowering shrubs. Dotted amongst the valleys are picturesque old Dutch farms. . . . It is impossible to say how long we shall be out here, but very likely for another year; then, as we are to keep a standing army of fifty thousand in the country, that means we must have more

permanent hospitals, and many of us will be kept on for those. However, I do not think I could stand army nursing in time of peace; I would rather go back to the other work. . . . We have twelve hours on duty here and twelve off. By day one can get off in the afternoon if one's cases are not too bad to leave in charge of the orderlies. By night one's time is really more taken up,—that is, if one has two wards, as I have. Each ward is a separate hut built of wood with galvanized sheeting outside; each contains about thirty-six beds. I have some rather had cases now in the wards, so have to make frequent rounds, as the orderlies would be sure to go to sleep. My two huts are close to the Boer compound.

It is now four A.M., and the prisoners are already singing their morning psalms. They seem to be a most religious kind of people, for they hold these services three or four times a day, and when there are over two thousand voices singing together you may imagine the effect is most impressive. They sing all their psalms to monotonous, drawling tunes, "Old Hundred" being one of their favorites.

I have been trying to pick up Dutch since I have been here. It is not very difficult to learn. Many of the Boers can speak English, but often they pretend they cannot, for they so hate us that they will not speak our language. We occasionally get other than Dutch in from the compound; just now I have a Frenchman, a German, and an Englishman. The latter tried at first to pass himself off as Dutch, but becoming delirious he soon betrayed himself. It is hard to have much sympathy with these men, but with the poor Boer it is different, for he has, after all, been fighting for his home and country, and one can only admire him for it.

So many men are really half Dutch and half English by birth that this seems to have been almost a civil war. Unfortunately, though we have really crushed the power of the Boers, I fear it will take many generations before we can stamp out the ill-feeling. I see it is time for me to begin my morning work, so I must close this ready for the weekly mail. . . .

[The above letter, having been written without intention for publication, is for this reason given without the name. The writer is a graduate of one of our hospitals, and her letter was kindly given to the editors by the friend to whom it was written.—Ed.]

THE secretary of the Dublin Club, Miss R. C. Rowden, has just sent us a delightful account of the inaugural meeting of the club, at which two hundred and seventy members were present, the total membership being four hundred and two. (Will some of our American associations notice these numbers and hang their heads?) She also sent their "Rules," which we would like in a later number to reprint.

THROUGH the kindness of Herr Doctor Zoëllner we have received the Sixty-third Annual Report of the Kaiserswerth work, from which we intend soon to give some extracts.

The new organ of the Holland association for furthering the interests of nurses, women and men, has also reached us. It is called *Nosokomos*, and the last number gives a paragraph to our forthcoming Congress.